



Connecticut Association of School Based Health Centers
53 Oak Street, Hartford, CT 06106
203-230-9976

**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR**

MELANIE WILDE-LANE

**BOARD OF
DIRECTORS**

EXECUTIVE BOARD

JILL HOLMES BROWN
PRESIDENT

RANBIR BAINS
SECRETARY

KAREN SIEGEL
TREASURER

BOARD MEMBERS

MELANIE BONJOUR
GRETA BRONEILLE
RITA CRANA
HEATHER DAWSON
JOHN FLANDERS
JANE HYLAN
HOLLY JOHNSON
DAVID KROL
SAMANTHA LITTEN
TRICIA OROZCO
LYNNE WEEKS

Testimony before the Appropriations Committee
February 24, 2022

Good afternoon Senator Abrams, Representative Dillon, Senator Somers, Representative Kennedy and members of the Appropriations Health Sub-Committee.

My name is Melanie Wilde-Lane and I am the Executive Director of the Connecticut Association of School Based Health Centers. I come before you today to discuss the Governor's budget specific to the School Based Health Center's line item.

We very much appreciate the Governor and Legislature's continued support of School Based Health Center's. However, as a provider of Behavioral Health services to youth throughout the state, we were surprised to see there was no increase in the SBHC's line item. As you know, with the passage of SB 1 last year, CASBHC was given two seats on the Department of Public Health's SBHC Expansion Workgroup. We have been an active participant and worked very closely with the Department on recommendations. CASBHC also furnished Committee leadership with an expenditure breakdown for mental health standalone, medical standalone and fully comprehensive school based health centers. Based on the draft recommendations put forth this month by the Expansion Workgroup, there was a strong recommendation to increase mental health services throughout the state of CT and within our most vulnerable locations as identified by the Department of Public Health. The recommendations also strongly advocated for increasing school based health centers in those locations. Expenditures will be needed in an effort to do this. We have spoken to this committee and the Expansion Workgroup at length about the need to expand existing SBHC services as well as develop new SBHC's in those identified sites. We implore you to continue to reach out to the Association to provide you with any data or explanations you might need in an effort to make your recommendations to increase the funding to the school based health center line item so that we can continue to serve our most vulnerable populations.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Wilde-Lane

